1 Claims

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3 Method for determining a variable that is characteristic 4 of a mass that rests on the seating area (2) of a seat 5 (1) with an estimated value of the variable that is 6 characteristic of the mass that is resting on the seating 7 area (2) being determined depending on at least one force 8 that acts on the seating area (2) and is detected by at 9 least one force sensor (9 - 12), with the estimated value 10 being determined to be reliable or unreliable depending 11 on the oscillation behavior of a measured signal (MS1 -MS4) of the at least one force sensor (9 - 12). 12

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14 2. Method according to claim 1,

with the estimated value being determined to be reliable or unreliable depending on a measure of the amplitude of

- 17 the oscillations of the measured signal (MS1 MS4) of
- the at least one force sensor (9 12).

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20 3. Method according to claim 2,

21 with the estimated value being determined to be reliable

or unreliable depending on a time duration of a

23 predetermined change in the mass of the amplitude of the

- oscillation of the measured signal (MS1 MS4) of the at
- least one force sensor (9 12).

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- 27 4. Method according to one of the preceding claims,
- with the measured signal (MS1 MS4) of the force sensor
- (9-12) being subjected to a Walsh transformation and
- 30 the estimated value being determined to be reliable or
- 31 unreliable depending on a measure for the sequential
- 32 content of the Walsh-transformed measured signal (MS1 -
- 33 MS4).

sensor (9 - 12).

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1 2 5. Method according to claim 4, 3 with the mass for the sequential content being formed by adding the amplitude (A) of predetermined sequences (s). 4 of the Walsh-transformed measured signal (MS1 - MS4). 5 6 7 6. Method according to claim 5, 8 with the measured signals (MS1 - MS4) of several force 9 sensors (9 - 12) being subjected to the Walsh transformation and from this a monitoring value (UW1 -10 UW4) being determined for each measured signal (MS1 -11 12 MS4) and the estimated value being determined to be 13 reliable or unreliable depending upon the monitoring 14 values (UW1 - UW4). 15 16 A device for determining a variable that is 7. 17 characteristic of a mass that rests on a seating area (2) 18 of a seat (1), with means that determine an estimated value of the variable 19 20 that is characteristic of the mass resting on the 21 seating area (2), and is dependent on at least one force that acts on the seating area (2) and is 22 23 detected by a force sensor (9 - 12), and 24 the estimated value being determined to be reliable

or unreliable depending on the oscillation behavior

of the measured signal of the at least one force